

# Parks & REC NEWS

**WINTER  
2006**



## Parks & Recreation Commission

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## MACOMB ORCHARD TRAIL RECEIVES DONATION FOR PARK

In October the Macomb Orchard Trail Commission announced the opening of the first trail side park, the Ross Memorial Park. This newly constructed park was donated by Janice Ross, in honor of her parents, Stanley and Nora Ross. A Dedication Ceremony took place October 13, 2005 at 2 p.m. at the trail side park located one half mile north of Van Dyke and 26 Mile on West Road, across from the Washington Grain Elevator.

Janice Ross donated \$50,000 for the park to continue the legacy of her parents and ensure others have a positive and memorable experience of the outdoors. After years of working as a patent lawyer for General Motors Corporation, Stanley Ross moved with his wife Nora to a 300 acre dairy farm in Washington Township. Knowing the importance of education they constructed a one-room school house on their property and began teaching. They created a unique farm comprised of innovative farming techniques and an incubator to educate the lives of those in Washington Township. The open fields and open space became places to learn about the natural resources in the area.

Janice Ross, daughter of Stanley and Nora, followed in her parent's commitment to improve educational opportunities by becoming a language teacher. She believes the Macomb Orchard Trail is a way to connect individuals to the natural world and to the lives of others that live around them. Thanks to her philanthropy the Macomb Orchard Trail is one stretch closer to reaching its final destination.



Sponsorship and donation funding is a great way for the Macomb Orchard Trail Commission to raise amenities for the trail. It's also a great way for businesses, local residents and organizations to make a commitment to the trail. For more information on donating or sponsoring the trail visit the trail's web site - [www.macomborchard.trail.com](http://www.macomborchard.trail.com).

# LET'S EAT FOOD DRIVE 2005 Quadruples Last Year Raises Over 400,000 Meals for Macomb County Residents in Need

The 2005 LET'S EAT Food Drive held September 9, at Freedom Hill County Park raised \$58,231 and 13,700 pounds of food. This more than quadruples last year's results!! With the food drive donations, Macomb County will be able to provide 430,000 meals in the upcoming months. Last year the food drive brought in just over 100,000 meals.

Throughout the day people of all ages enjoyed the performances by the My Bedbugs, Motor City Josh, Reel Life

Recorder, Elvis, Blues Brothers and Dancers Only. Families enjoyed a petting farm with pony rides, face painting, moonwalks and a variety of vendors. Food concessions were plentiful with the Italian Sausage with peppers and onions being a favorite!

This year's donations were incredible and due greatly to a committed group of individuals trying to help others. Pete Randazzo, the organization's founder has put together a committee consisting of Macomb County business leaders, county employees, and Randazzo employees. Together they work all year round to prepare for this great one day event.



This year much work was put into corporate sponsorship donations - which brought in over \$50,000. Encouraging corporations to donate isn't easy but with a need this great, Macomb County businesses will always step up to the plate! Thanks Macomb County!! This fall the food drive will be held again at Freedom Hill on September 10. For more information on donating visit their web site: [www.letseat4.com](http://www.letseat4.com).

## Vietnam Veteran Memorial at Freedom Hill

A Memorial Wall, made of granite, is being built to honor Macomb County Vietnam Veterans. Once completed the wall will have 147 names of Macomb County Vietnam Veterans who were killed in War. There will also be a map of Vietnam and some POW information. An unveiling is set for July 4, 2006 during

the County Fireworks and Veteran's Picnic at Freedom Hill County Park.

A walkway of brick pavers will connect the memorial with the main walkway to the Independence Building. Bricks on the walkway can be purchased for \$50 and personalized with a Veteran's name. The Vietnam Veterans Association

Chapter 154 has been instrumental in the building of the memorial and taking care of donations. Any individuals or companies interested in donating to the cost of the memorial or in sponsoring benches may contact Frank Blowers at Lakeside Community Bank 586-495-1197.

# 2005 Season filled with fun

The 2005 Summer Fun season was just that - Lots of summer fun. With the great weather this past summer nearly every weekend was warm and rain free. Which meant lots of people attended festivals, car



shows, pet shows, and concerts. The park was constantly filled with plenty to do.

Some of the highlights this past season include the incredible turnout for the first event. The Bearing Burners Car Show had a terrific weekend of sunshine and car enthusiasts. The 8th annual HarleyFest raised over \$30,000 for the Karamano's Cancer Center and had more than 20,000 attend festivities throughout the day.

We were privileged to host a FREE concert in July with the United States Air Force Band of Flight. This 60 piece concert band performed both patriotic military tunes and Broadway show tunes with talented singers. They had a tremendous show that you won't want to miss next time. Hopefully, they will return to Freedom Hill yearly!



Another first this year was the Vietnam Traveling Wall Memorial which as at Freedom Hill during Labor Day weekend. The Wall brought many to Freedom Hill to look for names of family and friends.

Both the Italian and the Polish Festivals continue to bring many to the park for great food and entertainment. The Older American Festival brought over 4,000 seniors to the

park with over 2,500 free meals given out.

PSE Hillside had a record year at the amphitheater with two sellouts in August. The roof came in handy a couple times when the clouds were low, but the warm summer weather added to the fun of being outside at a summer concert in Macomb County.

The Outdoor Market's season, which runs every Wednesday from April to October, received good attendance. The vendors experienced great weather most of the time - right up to the end of October. For those die hard market goers you can now go online to the outdoor market web site - [www.freedomhilloutdoormarkets.com](http://www.freedomhilloutdoormarkets.com) to keep in touch with them all year long.

## 2006 Events

Bearing Burners Car Show May 7  
HarleyFest June 17  
SummerFest June 23, 24, 25  
County Fireworks/Veteran's Picnic July 4  
Polish Festival July 14, 15, 16  
Italian Festival July 21, 22, 23  
Pet a Palooza July 29, 30  
Bark in the Park August 5  
L.E.T.S. E.A.T. Food Drive Sept. 9  
Battle of Brits Car Show Sept. 10  
Mut Madness Oct. 8

*More events are expected to be approved in the coming months. Visit the web site for an up to date listing.*

## Computer Recycle Day a Success

Who would have thought there were 30 tons of unwanted computers in Macomb County. And that was only 500 car fulls. Thanks to the first computer recycling event held Saturday, October 15, at Freedom Hill County Park an estimated 30 tons of unwanted computer equipment, or two and a half semi trailers full, was kept out of landfills.

The Macomb County Board of Commissioners, Dell and the State of Michigan sponsored the event. Volunteers processed computers, printers, keyboards, monitors and other equipment dropped off by nearly 500 attendees. Most of the equipment came from residents of Sterling Heights, Warren and Utica, and the townships of Shelby, Macomb and Clinton. The event also drew people from Oakland, Wayne and St. Clair counties.

# SENIOR SWING DANCES FUNDING FOR 2006

After more than two decades and hundreds of dances, the Senior Swing program at Freedom Hill is in jeopardy. The Parks and Recreation Commission has led a full force outreach campaign to raise funds from area businesses. Letters and packets are being sent out and many phone calls are being made. So far commitments from many companies show promise that the year 2006 will have dances!

Ralph A. Liberato began the Senior Swing program and kept it going through his passing in 2004. The county has been funding the program with little sponsorship help since. Many area assisted living centers and senior groups attend the dances with attendance over 150 each dance. The Tommy James Band, with singer Michael Carluccio perform at each dance. Refreshments are available.

The hall at Freedom Hill County Park where the dances are held was recently named the Ralph A. Liberato Hall and a plaque is soon to be on the wall. "Ralph Liberato would want these dances to continue so we will do our part in that," said Jim Perna, Parks and Recreation President. Anyone interested in sponsoring the Senior Swing program should call 1-800-639-5910 for more information.



## 2006 Senior Swing Dances

January 18, 25	July 19, 26
February 15, 22	August 16, 30
March 15, 29	September 20, 27
April 19, 26	October 18, 25
May 17, 31	November 15, 29
June 21, 28	December 20, 27



## Welcome DiMaria to Parks Commission

The Macomb County Parks & Recreation Commission for 2006 is pleased to welcome County Commissioner Phil A. DiMaria, to the 2006 Parks and Recreation Commission. DiMaria represents Eastpointe as their county commissioner.

He also serves as vice chairman of the Finance Committee and a member of the Budget, Personnel, Planning and Economic Development and Operational Services Committees. Previously, he served as chairman of the Justice and Public Safety Committee for 11 years. He is a retired Troy police officer serving 30 years with many awards and commendations for his service.

## Parks & Rec Commission welcomes Representatives

The Macomb County Parks & Recreation Commission is also pleased to welcome Deputy Public Works Commissioner Gene Schabath as representative for Anthony Marrocco, Public Works and Road Commissioner Thomas Raymus, representing the Road Commission.



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